

V. REMARKS

Claims 1 -2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Loose et al. (EP 1,260,928). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Loose teaches eight wheel spinning slot machine with a superimposed video image. The slot machine includes immorality of mechanical rotatable wheels and a video display. The reels are rotated and stopped to randomly placed symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area. The video display provides a video image superimposed on the reels the video image may be interactive with the reels and include graphics such as payout values, a patent table or instructional information.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying symbols and an electric display device disposed in front of the variable display device that has a light transparent area which shows symbols displayed on the variable display device from outside of the gaming machine. Claim 1 recites that the electric display device includes an electric display panel displaying an image, a light guiding plate and an illumination device. Claim 1 further recites that the light guiding plate has an opposing pair of flat surfaces and a plurality of contiguous side faces extending therebetween and peripherally about the pair of flat surfaces and is operative for guiding light entered from at least one side face thereof to a back face of the electric display panel so as to irradiate the light. Additionally, claim 1 recites that the illumination device illuminates the electric display panel from therebehind and includes a plurality of light emitting diodes aligned continuously along and adjacent to the at least one side face of the light guiding plate.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach or suggest a light guiding plate that has an opposing pair of flat surfaces and a plurality of contiguous side faces extending therebetween and peripherally about the pair of flat surfaces and is operative for guiding light entered from at least one side face thereof to a back face of the electric display panel so as to irradiate the

light. Further, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art teaches or suggests that the illumination device includes a plurality of light emitting diodes aligned continuously along and adjacent to the at least one side face of the light guiding plate. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to modify the features of the applied art because such features are devoid in the applied art. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 2 is canceled and therefore the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Loose in view of Seitz et al. (WO 00/49332). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Seitz teaches a LED back lighting apparatus for use in fuel dispensers. Eight lighting assembly includes a plurality of light emitting diode's disposed on a circuit board and arranged into a matrix having a plurality of rose with each road included and LED arrangement.

Claim 3, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying symbols and an electric display device disposed in front of the variable display device that has a light transparent area which shows symbols displayed on the variable display device from outside of the gaming machine. Claim 3 recites that the electric display device includes an electric display panel displaying an image, a diffusion sheet and an illumination device. Further, claim 3 recites that the illumination device comprises a plate-shaped board and a plurality of light emitting diodes provided in a plurality of rows and columns to form a matrix on a surface of the plate-shaped board with the plurality of light emitting diodes opposing a back face of the diffusion sheet. Also, claim 3 recites that the diffusion sheet is disposed between the electric display panel and the illumination device.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 3 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in

combination, teaches or suggests an electric display device that includes an electric display panel displaying an image, a diffusion sheet and an illumination device. Further, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests an illumination device with the plurality of light emitting diodes opposing a back face of a diffusion sheet. Also, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that the diffusion sheet is disposed between the electric display panel and the illumination device. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 is allowable over the applied art.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 4-7 also include features not shown in the applied art.

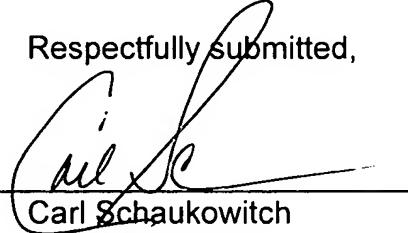
Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (one month)
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